

The Old Paths

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“All Things Desirable To Men ...”

Jarrod Jacobs

All things desirable to men are contained in the Bible.” This is one of the many quotes of Abraham Lincoln. Certainly, this man understood something that the majority of people today do not. Anything desirable, anything worthy of imitation, anything pleasing to God will be found in the Bible, the word of God! Peter said that God *“has granted to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness”* (II Pet. 1:3). If God has given us *“all things,”* then what do we lack? If He has given us *“all things”* then why are men so pressed to find life’s “necessities” somewhere else? Truly, “all things desirable to men are contained in the Bible.”

Within the pages of Inspiration, we find God’s instructions for life. The meaning of life is summed up thusly: *“Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man”* (Ecc. 12:13). God’s word instructs us to treat men as we would want them to treat us (Matt. 7:12). No one has ever improved on this! God declares that it is necessary to live at peace with all men. We are to *“pursue what makes for peace, and for mutual upbuilding”* (Rom. 14:19). If people would just do this, we would have a much more peaceful existence upon this earth! God instructs us to speak to others in an edifying way, and to not tear one another down through malicious words and

gossip (Eph. 4:29, 31). Husbands and wives are to submit themselves to one another and love one another, cleaving to each other, and forsaking all others (Eph. 5:22-33). For any relationship you wish to discuss, the Bible has the answer. It truly contains “all things desirable to men.”

The Bible also contains God’s plan for the salvation of mankind from sin. We see it unfolding from Genesis 3, and continue to take shape until the coming of Christ who died on the cross for us! The Bible teaches that Christ was *“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* (Rev. 13:8). His blood was shed to purchase us and to take away our sin (I Pet. 1:18-19; Matt. 26:28; Jn. 1:29). God loved man so much that He allowed His Son to die on our behalf (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:6-9). Christ died for us, shed his blood, and resurrected on the third day, declaring Himself to be the Son of God with power (Rom. 1:4). The Holy Spirit was then sent to guide the apostles into *“all truth”* so that they could preach and teach the truth to all nations, which they did (II Pet. 1:20-21; Jn. 14:26, 15:26, 16:13; Col. 1:5-6, 23; Rom. 16:26).

Now, it is man’s responsibility to do that which is right and submit himself to God’s will. He must come believing that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn. 8:24), repenting of his sins (Lk. 13:3), he must confess his faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10), and then be baptized for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38). Upon doing these things, the Bible re-

veals that man is saved (Mk. 16:16). Notice please that man is not saved simply by “doing something.” Man is not saved on his own merit. Man is saved by hearing and doing the will of God. He has done nothing on his own by which to boast, but has simply done what Christ expected of Him (Lk. 17:10; Eph. 2:8-9). He must then live a faithful life to God, doing the Lord’s will as His faithful servant (I Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10). The Bible teaches that when we submit to God, doing His will, and obeying His word, we become His servant or slave (Rom. 6:16-18). Still, this is a desirable position! What better place to be than in the loving care and mercy of a loving God whom you can now call your Father (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6)? What could be more “desirable” than this?

The Bible contains the wisdom, and power of God to salvation (Rom. 1:16). Why men continue to push God aside amazes me! Only in this Sacred Volume can we learn of God’s wisdom. God has revealed things to us that belong to us and our children forever (Deut. 29:29). When men refuse God’s word, they are refusing God’s wisdom! They are refusing God’s power to save, for the Bible says the gospel *“is the power of God for salvation”* (Rom. 1:16). The Bible reveals our origin, it reveals our purpose for being here, and it reveals what shall become of us (the faithful AND unfaithful) at the end of time. Jesus said that this book will be our standard of judgment on the Judgment Day (Jn. 12:48). Seeing that this is true, how foolish it is to cast this book aside as “antiquated,” or “a book of myths,” or anything else! The Bible is necessary, vital, and alive, and we better never forget that (Heb. 4:12)!!

Yes, “all things desirable to men are contained in the Bible.” The question is: Will you accept or reject the Bible?



"Give Me The Truth"

Bill Crews

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear the truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins, you can help me. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove you charitable. However I may react to it, whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, GIVE ME THE TRUTH!

For the truth, and only the truth, can make me free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness and lead me to the joys of heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass; if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left my first love; if I have been led astray by error, or, if I have done none of the these things, but simply need to grow in knowledge and then be edified, GIVE ME THE TRUTH!

"Too many Christians worship their work, work at their play, and play at their worship."

Enemy Or Ally?

Jarrod Jacobs

God expects us to make a distinction between truth and error. Unfortunately, many people are not making the distinction. Whether it is due to friendships, or other associations, we find many trying to stay "allies" with all and "enemies" to none.

Jesus said this is not possible to be allies to all and enemies to none. In fact, even the world knows this is not possible. Christ said, *"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you"* (Jn. 15:18-19). If we are living as Christ would have us live, we can not be friends with the world.

The apostle Paul knew that Christians should *"be separate"* from the world. He asked, *"What partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God"* (II Cor. 6:14-16).

Who are our enemies? Who are our allies? The Bible shows us that choosing in one category automatically decides the other category! James made this distinction clear when he wrote, *"Friendship with the world is enmity with God Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (Jas. 4:4). In like manner, Jesus told His followers, *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other...."* (Matt. 6:24). Therefore, our enemies are determined by who we choose as allies, and vice versa. So, what is YOUR choice? Choose wisely, as some choices we may only get to make once!

Thoughts From The Past

"Error never dies a natural death, it has to be killed with the sword of the Spirit I do know this, nothing, but nothing, beats old time gospel preaching and hard-nosed Bible study. This is what it will take to keep the church on the straight and narrow path. When we depart from the fundamentals, we take our first step toward apostasy. Could it be that we are more concerned about being politically correct than with being Scripturally correct?"

(James P. Needham, *Guardian of Truth*, November 16, 1995, p. 11).

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